

BOOK REVIEWS

THE GOOD PHYSICIAN. A Treasury of Medicine. Edited by William H. Davenport. 562 pp. The Macmillan Company, New York; Collier-Macmillan Canada, Limited, Galt, 1962. \$8.75.

This book—in physical dimensions the equal of the traditional sober and portly Anatomy—will raise the metabolism of every doctor who groans at the sight of the vast armoury of technical volumes on medical library shelves, and is led to wonder just where “the soul” of the library is to be found. It will prove a healthy corrective for the grubbing medical chap who believes that a medical library is a place where one may find a list of references with which to embellish his latest precious article. For this is a “personal” book, a book in which the abiding principles of medicine are made flesh.

Under the flattering if prosaic title of “The Good Physician”, the author, Professor Davenport of the Department of English at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California, has compiled a brilliant collection of medical literature. Incidentally, a monument awaits the genius who can open up a new vein of titles for books about doctors that avoid the terms “good”, “beloved” and so on, titles which reflect the now faded aura which the nineteenth century placed about the head of the all-too-human physician.

Professor Davenport has done a noble service to the constituency of medicine in providing this generous collection of medicated literature. Anthologies for and about doctors are not plentiful (the same is true of readable histories of medicine). For the young medical student or doctor and the weathered medical veteran these pages provide wonderfully contrived avenues leading to the broad kingdom of medicine, past and present. These pages are an invitation to a wider exploration of the fascinating literature of medicine. What is more important, the volume as a whole demolishes the notion of “the two cultures” in medicine, the schizophrenic dichotomy that is assumed to exist between the medical scientist and the medical humanist. As is made manifest in passages, the best and the greatest physicians have been both scientist and humanist.

The peculiar merit of this book rests on several features: it has been compiled by an “arts man”; at least 40% of the selections are drawn from what to a doctor are out-of-the-way sources; the author has come up with many gems. Best of all, the selections are of ample length—not an array of *hors d'œuvres*, but each item a substantial course in itself, averaging 10 pages. In this regard the volume is a splendid complement to such worthy medical anthologies as Robert Coope’s “The Quiet Art” (1952), Edward Griffith’s “Doctors by Themselves” (1951) and A. C. Corcoran’s recently published “A Mirror up to Medicine”.

Some of the treasures—historical and contemporary—which the author has included are generous passages from Stephen Paget’s “Confessio Medici”, Somerset Maugham’s “Of Human Bondage”, Hans Zinsser’s masterpiece, “As I Remember Him”, William Carlos Williams’, the American poet-pediatrician’s writings, Sir Ernest Gower’s “Medical Jargon”, and Albert Camus’s “The Plague”.

Here, then, are infinite riches in a splendidly appointed room, eloquent pictures of medicine—its humanity, its achievements, its deep involvement with the humour, the pathos and the glories of life. This is a book for medical patricians and journeymen alike. To the individual doctor it can be a source of relaxation, a solace in times of patient-induced depression, and an inspiration in all seasons. In short it is a happy addition to the physician’s bookshelf and bedside table. It provides the substance for a humble and literate awareness of our past, with its errors and triumphs, which, as members of a beleaguered profession, is our hope for the future.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, UNITED STATES ARMY IN WORLD WAR II. SURGERY IN WORLD WAR II. THORACIC SURGERY. Vol. 1. Edited by Frank B. Berry, 394 pp. Illust. Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1963. \$4.25 (U.S. funds).

The long delay in the appearance of this volume will, unfortunately, affect its reception adversely. Such an eventuality is doubly unfortunate because this particular book from the Medical Department of the United States Army has, in its final state, been very expertly conceived and very carefully prepared. It will be a tremendously valuable addition to any thoracic surgical library, not only on account of its administrative detail but also because of the clarity of presentation of its clinical aspects.

The historical sequence of the development of techniques in the Mediterranean theatre is outlined and, quite properly, appreciation is expressed for the prior contributions by the British Medical Service in North Africa. Much emphasis is placed upon the proper management of disorders affecting the pleural space, and the fallacy of previously enunciated principles is clearly demonstrated. For example, the introduction of infection by aspiration in the presence of antibiotic coverage is no longer a problem. In addition, aspiration will not encourage further bleeding, since hemorrhage is primarily controlled by producing adhesions of irritated pleural membranes, and finally, in the presence of trauma blood within the pleural cavity will clot and not remain fluid for reabsorption as had been taught in the past. Active treatment, therefore, becomes mandatory in order to ensure the best possible functional result.

To this end the redefinition of the indications for decortication is described and major emphasis is placed on the importance of remedial exercises. Recognition of the very special problems, largely physiological, involved in the management of thoracic injuries led to their treatment in special centres, and the success of such a policy indicates that this was one of the real advances in the treatment of war-time injuries during World War II.

Specific details relating to emergency measures, provision of adequate anesthesia, and special techniques, such as the closure of perforating wounds by muscle flaps and the use of limited thoracotomy incisions, are all clearly defined.

This is a fine effort on the part of all concerned. As a reference text it should prove invaluable.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE Vth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY. PART II. Selected Lectures: Topical Problems of Psychotherapy. Vol. 4. Edited by Berthold Stokvis. 281 pp. S. Karger Ag. Basel; Albert H. Phiebig, White Plains, New York, 1963. \$16.75.

This volume of "Selected Lectures on Topical Problems of Psychotherapy" (Part II of the Proceedings of the Fifth International Congress of Psychotherapy, Vienna, 1961) presents a panoramic view of this controversial specialty in a state of flux. Established traditions are being slowly but surely washed away, and new ideas emerging here and there. Some are really old ideas in new guise, but others are truly original and creative. If any theme may be said to stand out in this selection, it is that presented by Minkowski ("Psychotherapy and the Human Approach"), Van der Horst ("Integration of Psychotherapy and Clinical Psychiatry") and Dreikurs ("The Psychological Uncertainty Principle"). The human person, according to Minkowski, is essentially an enigma, and psychotherapy is in essence an art of comprehension. As an art, psychotherapy is menaced by the demands of scientific objectivity. "The more technique and theory become codified, the greater the risk that this codification turns in upon itself" and falls short of the "dynamism of life". The same idea is expressed by Dreikurs in a provocative analogy with the principle well established in physics: that "the very observation interferes with action". The alternative? Not anarchy, but flexibility and open-mindedness. This attitude presents in turn a new risk, but one which must be taken. The break with tradition is already well under way. According to Van der Horst: "The classical Kraepelinian approach is in danger. And yet there is no loss . . .". Among the benefits seen by the author is that "it is no longer possible to demonize the psychiatric patient". Or is it? "We must not be rash," he warns, "in deriding primitive superstition with regard to psychic disorders."

This volume will probably disappoint the reader in search of scientific precision, but those who see in medical practice a philosophy and an art of healing will find most of the authors congenial and the selection as a whole a stimulating one.

PREVENTIVE PEDIATRICS. Child Health and Development. Paul A. Harper. 797 pp. Illust. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1962. \$14.95 (U.S. funds).

This is not a textbook of pediatrics in the usually accepted sense. The author has taken note of the fact that the practising pediatrician spends the greater part of his time attending to the needs of well children and those with minor illnesses, who also need health supervision. It is apparently for them and for public health workers that this book has been written.

A vast amount of material is covered, including such topics as growth, development, physiology, nutrition, immunology, public health and psychology. On the whole the book is well written, although in places it offers fairly heavy going. This is not aided by the type setting, which is small and requires additional concentration. Incorporation of comments of the author based on his personal experience might have further enhanced the value of this work.

This book will serve equally well as a text for many of the "minor problems" of pediatrics and as an up-to-date reference on recent research in related areas.

ANTIBODY TO ENZYMES—A THREE-COMPONENT SYSTEM. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences. Vol. 103, Art. 2, pp. 493-1154. Conference held by The New York Academy of Sciences on September 5, 6 and 7, 1962. Consulting editor, B. Cinader. The New York Academy of Sciences, New York, 1963. \$8.00 (U.S. funds).

This monograph comprises an unusually comprehensive collection of papers on antibody-enzyme interactions which should be of value for those concerned with fundamental research on either enzymes or antibodies. It contains 45 papers prepared by 74 authors, all of whom are active in this field. Nineteen different enzymes form the specific subject of individual papers, while antibody reactions with ribonuclease, lactate dehydrogenase, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase and tryptophan synthetase are each the subject of several papers. Although most papers deal with a three-component system as indicated in the title (antibody-enzyme-substrate), seven papers concern enzyme-antibody reactions alone (two components) and others treat antibody-apoenzyme-coenzyme-substrate interactions (four components).

The mechanisms of inhibition of enzymes by antibody are considered in detail. Inhibitions resulting from combination with the catalytic site and other sites are both considered, the steric hindrance involved in the latter case receiving major attention. Studies on antibody-combining sites and the structure of the enzyme antigens, especially the catalytic sites, are also reported.

The use of antibodies for the differentiation and characterization of multiple molecular forms of various enzymes is reported in several papers. Antibodies are also considered as tools for the study of biosynthesis of enzymes, tissue localization of enzymes and isoenzymes, and ontogenetic changes in enzymes.

This collection of papers clearly shows that antibodies to enzymes have a great potential for elucidating many problems including the synthesis, mechanism of action, localization, variability, ontogeny and phylogeny of enzymes, but that progress in this field has just begun.

SURGICAL PRACTICE OF THE LAHEY CLINIC. 3rd ed. Written by members of the staff of the Lahey Clinic, Boston. 872 pp. Illust. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London; McAinsh and Company Limited, Toronto, 1962. \$18.40.

The third edition of the Surgical Practice of the Lahey Clinic presents to the surgical world an outstanding collection of papers representative of the cumulative experience of the various Clinic members. This present edition should prove of great value to all surgeons, but especially those whose main interest lies in the field of general surgery. The papers are on the whole topical, and presented in a clear, concise and refreshing style. The illustrations are excellent and add greatly to the value of the text. The amount of information contained in the book is enormous, and each paper represents the experiences of a writer who obviously has complete mastery of his subject, both from a theoretical and practical point of view. The indications for and against the use of certain operative procedures in the treatment of most of the lesions are backed by the results as they obtain in the hands of the Clinic members.

This book is highly recommended for all surgeons and postgraduate students in surgery.

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TUMORS OF THE EYE. 2nd ed. Algernon B. Reese. 593 pp. Illust. Harper & Row, Publishers, Incorporated, New York, 1963. \$30.00 (U.S. funds).

The first edition of this book was an ophthalmic literary milestone, and the second edition is at least in the same pattern of excellence.

Tumours of and around the eye are discussed in terms of clinical pattern, pathology, prognosis and treatment. As in the first edition, Dr. Reese's personal experience is heavily drawn upon, and the close association of the writer with his material is evident particularly, for example, in the discussion of retinoblastoma, which is most comprehensive.

The second edition has been up-dated, but the new material has been integrated into the text, not simply added. Indeed, much of the book has been rewritten.

The addition of bold-type sub-headings to this edition is most helpful and facilitates reading (and remembering). Over two hundred illustrations have been added.

The book is not intended as a cytological text on ocular tumours, although many photomicrographs are present. It is intended as a comprehensive description of ocular oncology in its widest meaning, and fulfils this function admirably. It can be read for both pleasure and profit and deserves high priority rating in any ophthalmic library.

CORRELATIVE ANATOMY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. Elizabeth C. Crosby, Tryphena Humphrey, Edward W. Lauer *et al.* 730 pp. Illust. The Macmillan Company, New York; Collier-Macmillan Canada, Limited, Galt, Ont., 1962. \$16.50.

This new text book of neuroanatomy embraces in one volume a life-time of research and teaching by the senior author, Dr. Elizabeth Crosby, who is Professor Emeritus of Anatomy, University of Michigan, and a very distinguished neuroanatomist. It is an impressive and authoritative work, clearly written and well illustrated with original photomicrographs, diagrams and drawings. Every aspect of the anatomy of the nervous system is dealt with comprehensively and a massive bibliography has been included.

As the title of the book indicates, each section includes detailed correlations between anatomy and clinical symptoms and signs, and this feature will increase its value to the graduate student and clinical teacher.

It is difficult to offer any serious criticisms of this important book. It has obviously been written with the greatest care and with regard for accuracy in every detail. It has immediately joined the front rank of neuroanatomical textbooks and will be an essential reference book for everyone interested in the structure and organization of the nervous system.

CHEMISTRY OF THROMBOLYSIS: HUMAN FIBRINOLYTIC ENZYMES. American Lecture Series. Kurt N. von Kaulla. 333 pp. Illust. Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill.; The Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1963. \$14.00.

The evidence leading to the modern concept of fibrinolysis is clearly presented in this very useful book. The subject has recently become very confusing owing to many conflicting reports of *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments. The author has presented the known facts in an orderly manner by using the chemistry of thrombolysis as the framework for his monograph.

Certain fibrinolytic preparations that are available for commercial use have been assayed for their esterolytic activity on synthetic esters. This esterolytic activity unfortunately has not paralleled the ability to digest fibrin clots, either *in vitro* or *in vivo*. Conversely, when the human fibrinolytic system has been activated by natural activators in the presence of naturally occurring inhibitors, fibrinolytic activity may be demonstrated although there is no esterolytic activity.

Laboratory procedures for measuring fibrinolysis do not duplicate conditions *in vivo*, where the enzymes have to act on pre-existing thrombi. When a standard substrate such as casein is used in a laboratory, activators of fibrinolysis are not considered; these may be of great importance in intravascular clots. Blood which has been clotted by the addition of thrombin is more susceptible to lysis than blood which has been allowed to clot without the addition of thrombin.

The clinical aspects of thrombolytic therapy are critically considered. The author concludes that enzymatic thrombolytic therapy is still in its infancy, and states that wishful thinking will not help its further development. What is needed is more information on the fibrinolytic activity induced in the patient's blood and objective evidence of the result achieved in the lysis of thrombi.

The role of the fibrinolytic system in the maintenance of normal body functions is described. The half-life of fibrinogen is four to six days while that of albumin and gamma globulin is 13-21 days. In fibrinolytic states the half-life of fibrinogen tagged with I^{131} is shortened to ten days. In women there is a marked increase in fibrinolytic activity 7-28 hours after menstruation begins.

Many drugs, both enzymatic and non-enzymatic, induce lysis. Search for non-enzymatic inexpensive drugs capable of preventing intravascular clot formation may prove rewarding. A long list of compounds inducing lytic activity is given. It is interesting that certain procedures such as electroshock, pneumoencephalography and the injection of pyrogens intravenously cause a marked lytic response.

A DOCTOR'S GUIDE TO COURT. Keith Simpson. 174 pp. Illust. Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., London; Butterworth & Co. (Canada) Ltd., Toronto, 1962. \$6.75.

This book is a valuable aid to a doctor in his capacity as an expert witness. It includes such matters as his records and the use he may make of them in court; preparation for trial and reports to counsel; procedure in court and how he may improve the quality of his evidence.

There has been no attempt to deal in detail with law governing particular issues and the application of medical evidence to them, except that some special attention has been paid to actions for personal injury and to the testimony of pathologists. In the main it is a handbook for any doctor who is called upon to testify in any issue.

One of the most valuable features is the inclusion of numerous illustrative anecdotes. These make for easy reading and they reinforce the points which the author is stressing about some of the pitfalls for the expert witness.

The Canadian reader will have no difficulty in identifying the material which is inapplicable in Canada. Most of the information is as helpful for the Canadian expert as for his English counterpart.